

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10-16, 22, 24-30, 36, and 38-40 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 15, and 29 are independent.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10-16, 22, 24-30, 36, and 38-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,421,733 B1 (*Tso et al.*) in view of “Request for Comments 1521: MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions) Part One” (*RFC*).

Claim 1 is directed to an e-mail processing method in which a data type of each part included in a text of a received e-mail is identified, the received e-mail being a multi-part e-mail. Further, it is determined whether each part included in the received e-mail can be processed, by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type. Further, a part that can be processed, included in the received e-mail, is stored, if it is determined that the part can be processed. Further, a part that cannot be processed, included in the received e-mail, is deleted, if it is determined that the part cannot be processed.

Tso et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a system for dynamically transcoding data transmitted between computers. The system is implemented in an apparatus for use in transmitting data between a network server and a network client over a communications link. The apparatus includes a parser coupled to a transcode service provider. The parser is configured to selectively invoke the transcode service provider in response to a predetermined selection criteria.

The *RFC*, as understood by Applicant, specifies an Internet standards track protocol for the Internet community. The *RFC* discusses mechanisms for specifying and describing the format of Internet message bodies.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has mis-read *Tso et al.* in some important respects. While *Tso et al.* may relate to the use of MIME or similar techniques to control the flow of information, for example, to and from a network via a proxy server, Applicant does not find in that patent any suggestion that a body of information is checked to see whether it can be processed by a recipient, much less that a body of information should be deleted based on the result of such a check. In particular, the passages specifically cited by the Examiner as providing such a teaching (col. 2, lines 47-49, and col. 10, lines 37-49), do not appear to contain any such disclosure.

First, col. 2, lines 47-49, are merely a short passage stating that “[a]s used herein, the term ‘transcode’ applies to virtually any manipulation of data including, but not limited to, adding, modifying or deleting data.” This, however, is merely the provision of a general term to be used to encompass various types of processing in the general scheme provided by *Tso et al.*, and is not a suggestion of the mentioned type of check, much less that deletion or any other specific action should occur based on the result of such a check.

The other passage cited by the Examiner, col. 10, lines 37-49, describes that the parser 22 may check to determine whether a data stream satisfies a given criterion (“any applicable predetermined criteria”), and mentions as examples, determining the content type of a particular data stream (for example, distinguishing among jpeg, gif and mpeg formats), and providing the HTTP stream handle to an appropriate service provider based on the result of the discrimination. Nothing in this passage (or elsewhere in *Tso et al.*),

however, relates in any way to making a determination as to whether or not a given body of data can, or cannot, be processed by its intended recipient. Neither does anything suggest deletion of a body of data that cannot be processed. Rather, this passage merely says that a body of data is directed to the proper service provider, and does not indicate what would happen upon receipt of a body of data that could not be processed by any of the service providers 24. There is certainly no suggestion that such a body of data would be deleted automatically, and in fact the conventional approach, as Applicant understands, is for the data to be retained in storage until it is purged by an operator.

Even if the *RFC* is deemed to teach all it is cited for, nothing in the *RFC* would remedy the deficiencies of *Tso et al.* discussed above.

Accordingly, even if the *Tso et al.* and the *RFC* were combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner (or in any other manner, assuming such a combination is permissible), the result would not meet the terms of Claim 1.

Nothing in *Tso et al.* or the *RFC*, either separately or in any permissible combination (if any) would teach or suggest (1) determining whether each part included in a received e-mail can be processed, by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type, (2) storing a part that can be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined that the part can be processed, and (3) deleting a part that cannot be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined that the part cannot be processed, as recited in Claim 1.

For these reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Tso et al.* and the *RFC*, either separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

Independent Claims 15 and 29 are apparatus and computer-readable storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

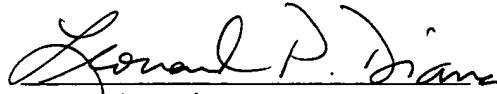
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leonard P. Diana".

Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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